Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University,

Nanded.

A Proposal for Doctoral Research Submitted to the Faculty of Arts,

Entitled

Representation of History and Mythology in Amish Tripathi's *Shiva Trilogy:* A Critical Study

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Introduction:

India is the land of diversity. One can find here diversity in almost all fields like religions, castes, languages, territories, ways of living life and social manners and conventions. She has her long and varied history. This rich and thought-provoking history is often represented through different mythologies. These mythologies and history often talk of the glorious past of India. In ancient period, some religious books in India recorded mythologies and history of India in well manner. i.g. *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* represent the history of India long back. As the age advanced, in the course of time many newly born authors tried to reinterpret and represent the classical works of Indian history and mythology. They viewed these mythologies and history in a different way. i.g. Anand Neelkantan's novels is a supreme example of this view who viewed his novels by deconstructive way. He denied the established and commonly accepted depiction of Ravana and Duryodhana and tried to represent them in a humane and virtuous way. Here he challenged the commonly accepted beliefs about Ravana and Duryodhana.

In the present decade, one such newly born author has tried to reinterpret and represent Indian history and mythology in context of Lord Shiva's life and adventures. Amish Tripathi, who is a devoted reader of history, wrote his novels based on Indian history and mythology. Through his novels he tried to reinterpret and represent Indian god Shiva, his life and adventures. He wrote three novels on this mythical theme of lord Shiva which is commonly called as Shiva Trilogy. Through this Shiva Trilogy Tripathi showed the readers how an extra ordinary man became a god. The complete transformation of a man of flesh and blood into a god is a novel representation by the author. The theme of transformation is not different to Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis.*

There are basically three novels in Shiva Trilogy. the first of these *The Immortals of Meluha* was published in February 2010. This novel takes place in an imaginary land of Meluha, an empire created by lord Rama long back, and talks of lord Shiva's arrival from Tibet to Meluha as a warrior, Neelkanth, a sole survivor of the Meluhan. He falls in love with Sati. In this book he is a warrior man, not a god. The second book in the trilogy is *The Secret of Nagas* was published on 12 August 2011. This book depicts the story of how the inhabitants of Meluha are saved from war by their survivor lord Shiva. it begins from where the first book was over, with Shiva trying to save Sati from the invading Naga. Later shiva takes his troops of soldiers and travels far east to the land of Branga where he wishes to find a clue to reach the Naga people. Shiva also learns that Sati's first child is

still alive as well as her twins. His journey ultimately leads him to the Naga capital of Panchvati where he finds a surprise waiting for him. The third and final book in Shiva Trilogy is *The Oath of Vayuputras* . it was published on 27 February2013. This book completes the mythical story of Meluha and how its inhabitants are saved by Shiva. It starts from where the second book left off, Shiva discovers that Somras is the true evil. In the oath of the Vayuputras, finally a war takes place there and Shiva destroys the capital of Meluha. Somras is wiped out of history and the story ends with Shiva and his associates being popularized as gods for their deeds and accomplishment. It means here in the third book the readers find Shiva's transformation from a warrior into a god. The popularity of Shiva Trilogy reveals that the readers are eager to read and understand the reinterpretation and representation of lord Shiva and his adventures in Indian history and mythology. The author's artistic capacity is strongly put on to test in this attempt of composition. A critical and detail study will focus on the best and critical evaluation of the texts and bring out other aspects of the work as well.

Review of Literature:

Since Amish Tripathi's books are recent works, published in 2010, 2011 and 2013, there is not much critical material available on these novels yet. The same thing is about the author. There are only a few opinions on some links on the internet giving a little idea about the author and the works. Apart from this, there are many books available on Indian ancient history and mythology which are very useful to understand and evaluate the reinterpretation and representation of history and mythology in Shiva Trilogy. *Indian Mythology: Tales, Symbols and Rituals from the Heart of the Subcontinent* (2004) is a useful resource book by Devdatt Pattnaik. It deals with the meaning behind the classical myth from the Indian mythology. He depicts Indian deity like Kali, Lord Ganesha, Lord Shiva and other Indian gods. The book deals with the current narratives of the mythological figures which are informative for the new generation. George William's *Handbook of mythology* (2008) is a valuable book to understand the ways and subways of Indian mythology. M.L. Ahuja's *Women in Indian Mythology* (2011) is one more book which focuses major women in mythology who achieved status of deities like Durga, Kali, Saraswati and Sita etc. Wendy Doniger O'Flaherty wrote a very influential book entitled *The Origins of Evils in Hindu Mythology* (1974) this book focuses the issues of the impact of the victor- vanquished relationship on the concept of evil in the Hindu

mythology. All these source book will provide proper ways to study and understand the Reinterpretation of history and mythology in Amish Tripathi's Shiva Trilogy.

Title of the Research:

Representation of History and Mythology in Amish Tripathi's *Shiva Trilogy:* A Critical Study

Hypothesis:

1) Amish Tripathi represents history and mythology in Shiva Trilogy.

2) He considers Lord Shiva a once lived man of flesh and blood.

3) He clearly depicts the mythical characters and their relation with one-another.

4) He represents lord Shiva a man of blood and flesh who turned into a god as a result of humane and virtuous deeds.

5) His novels are a gateway to understand Indian history and mythology in context of Shiva Trilogy.

Objectives:

1) To study Shiva Trilogy as representation of history and mythology.
2) To study major characters, themes, motifs and symbols critically in the selected novels by Amish Tripathi
3) To understand and critically evaluate the author's philosophy reflected in his novels.
4) To understand and evaluate critically the author's artistic style of composition in Shiva Trilogy.
5) To understand, evaluate and critically analyze the representation of history and mythology in the light of the selected works.

Resource material and methodology:

The study focuses on the critical analysis of representation of history and mythology in the novels by Amish Tripathi on the basis of their artistic merits, the themes and characterization and motifs etc. the critical analysis of the selected works is at the core of the present research work. The study is to be based on resource material like primary and secondary data both in printed and electronic form. The M.L.A Handbook of Research Methodology which provides guiding principles for research work is going to be followed for citation and documentation of various resources. The research work will follow the P.hD. ordinance of the university. Different texts, journals, reference books critical material and other useful material will be used for the present research work. The present research work does not need any field work so the textual analysis approach will be used with proper citation for the present study.

Proposed chapter scheme:

Chapter I: Introduction

Chapter II: The Immortals of Meluha : Arrival of Shiva in Meluha and the legend of Neelkanth

Chapter III: The Secret of Nagas : Revelation of Shocking Relations and Expectations

Chapter IV: The Oath of Vayuputras : The Complete Transformation of lord Shiva into a God: - Mahadev

Chapter V: Conclusion

Bibliography

Chapter I: Introduction

This is going to be an introductory chapter where the writer's brief introduction will be given. The topic of the research will be introduced in this chapter in detail. The ancient Indian history and mythology is reflected in Shiv Trilogy which is considered holy and religious depiction by many readers. Lord Shiva, Sati, Ganesha and Bhrigu Sage are worshipped all over India with pride and honor. These deities will be introduced in this introductory chapter. A glance on ancient Indian history and prominent mythological tales regarding Lord shiva will also be taken. The selected novels and its relation to history and mythology will be studied in this chapter.

Chapter: II The Immortals of Meluha: Arrival of lord Shiva in Meluha and the Legend of Neelkanth

Amish Tripathi's bestselling novel entitled *The Immortals of Meluha* was published in February 2010. The story is set in an imaginary land of Meluha, a perfect empire created many centuries earlier by lord Rama. The novel depicts Shiva's arrival from Tibet as the chief of the Guna tribe to save the Meluhan. Lord Shiva is the hero of the novel as a warrior and sole survivor of the Meluhan, the suryvanshi against the nagas, the chandravanshi. The writer's reinterpretation and representation of history and mythology reflected in this work will be studied in the light of scholarly resources. The writer's art of composition, characterization, and creative use of his imagination to reinterpret the history and mythology will be studied in detail. Above all the themes, motifs, and symbols besides the writer's philosophy will be studied in this chapter.

Chapter: III The Secret of the Nagas: Revelation of Shocking Relations and Expectations

This third chapter *The Secret of the Nagas* is based on the second novel in Shiva Trilogy by Amish Tripathi. This novel was published in 12 August 2011. This novel is further development of the incomplete story of Shiva started in the first novel. Here also Shiva is the hero of the novel who at

beginning saves Sati-a Meluhan princess – from an invading Naga. Here Shiva learns many complex relationships among many characters. The writer has focused here more on finding the root of evil. There the author relied on geography and history to expand the locations visited in the story. How the historic and mythological interpretation is provided by the writer will be studied here. This crucial part of the history and it's and representation will be studied in this chapter. The writer's characterization, art of composition, themes, motifs, symbols and his philosophy will be studied in this chapter.

Chapter: IV The Oath of the Vayuputras: The Complete Transformation of Shiva into a God - Mahadev

The fourth chapter *The Oath of theVayuputras* is the third and last installment in Shiva Trilogy. The novel was published on 27 February 2013. The writer's representation of Shiva into a lord Shiva- a god - will be studied critically in this chapter. Here the author's philosophy of triumph of good over evil will also be studied in detail. Different characters, locations, holy war and its consequences as reinterpretation and representation of history and mythology will be studied here. How the history and mythology is reviewed by the writer will be critically studied in this chapter. The writer's art of characterization, plot composition creative use of his imagination will be studied in this topic. Moreover the major themes, motifs, symbols, and writer's philosophy will be studied critically in this chapter.

Chapter: V Conclusion

Conclusion is going to be the last chapter of the present research work. In this chapter the critical observations and proved findings will be recorded in detail. The final conclusion of the entire study will be documented here. The critical analysis of the writer's selected work will be mentioned in this chapter. Final findings and the relevance and significance of the study will be stated in this chapter.

Bibliography

This part will contain selected scholarly reference books and useful study material for the present research work. Useful encyclopedia, journals, reference books and other scholarly material related to the research work will be provided in this part. the selected and used websites will also be enlisted here in this part. this bibliography will be given in the standard MLA methodology of research citation format. This section will be added at the end of the research work.

Relevance and significance of the study

Since the study of history and mythology is a supreme key to understand ancient India and culture, various gods and goddess, religious practices and spirituality, the present research work will be very useful to fulfill these things. The once rich and prosperous land and its inhabitants will be easily studied and understood by one and all. Amish Tripathi's novels on Shiva Trilogy is a new direction to understand the history and mythology of India and the Hindu god Shiva. In this trilogy the writer unfolds many complex and shocking relationships to the readers. The study will definitely be useful to understand the transformation of a man into a god, the triumph of good over evil. In Indian society Lord Shiva is respected and worshipped all over the nation. It is considered the god of gods. So the present study will disclose the real life and adventures of Shiva to the readers. The writer's artistic style will also be judged by the readers through study. The history will be revised in a critical manner. The mythology's reinterpretation will please the readers. The study will evaluate a new genre of mythical novel. India's history and mythologies regarding Lord Shiva will be once again revised through this study. The art of plot construction, characterization, major themes, motifs and symbols will be studied in critical way and it will be analyzed properly.

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